Milk output is declining in parts of Europe and some industry sources indicate output is reaching seasonal lows. In some parts of the region stakeholders say milk output is near 2022 levels, while in others milk production is down compared to last year. Stakeholders say milk volumes are somewhat tight and current prices for loads are preventing some European cheesemakers from running full production schedules. Demand for cheese is strong as holidays in some European countries are contributing to increased retail sales. Meanwhile, some contacts report softening food service sales. Export demand for cheese is steady. Cheesemakers say spot inventories are tight and some are unable to fulfill requests from purchasers looking for additional loads of cheese. Cheese prices are steady to higher in Europe.

Information for the period October 23 - 27, 2023, issued weekly